

Northern Ireland Assembly

Functioning of Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill Notice of Amendments tabled on 13 October 2020 for Consideration Stage

New Clause

After clause 8 insert -

'Record of being lobbied

8A.—(1) In the event of a minister or special adviser, other than as provided for in section 8, being lobbied, then, the minister or (as the case may be) special adviser must provide at the earliest opportunity a written record to their department of all such lobbying and the department must retain such records.

(2) In this section "being lobbied" means to receive personally a communication, either oral or written, on behalf of the person making the communication or another person or persons, relating to:

- (a) the development, adoption or modification of any proposal of the department to make or amend primary or subordinate legislation;
- (b) the development, adoption or modification of any other policy of the department;
- (c) the making, giving or issuing by the department of, or the taking of any other steps by the department in relation to,—
 - (i) any contract or other agreement,
 - (ii) any grant or other financial assistance, or
 - (iii) any licence or other authorisation; or
- (d) the exercise of any other function of the department.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (2), it does not matter whether the communication occurs in or outwith the United Kingdom.

(4) Nothing in this section shall apply to a communication—

- (a) made in proceedings of the Northern Ireland Assembly or the Executive Committee, or
- (b) arising in the course of liaison with the minister's political party.'

Mr Jim Allister

New Clause

After clause 11 insert -

'Accountability to the Assembly; provision of information

11A. Ministers and their departments have a duty to report to an Assembly committee such information as that committee may reasonably require in order to discharge its functions, being information which—

- (a) has been requested in writing; and
- (b) relates to the statutory functions exercisable by the Minister or their department.'

Mr Jim Allister

Clause 14, Page 5, Line 10

At end insert -

"The Executive Committee" means the Executive Committee as established by section 20 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998."

Mr Jim Allister